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Recruitment for the Department of Safeguards

Susan Pepper

The following positions are being
advertised by the IAEA
Department of Safeguards:

Safeguards Training Officer (Containment and Surveillance) Section for Safeguards Training Division of Concepts and Planning (P-4)

Vacancy Notice No. 2007/902
Deadline: November 30, 2007
Published Salary: \$97,821

Systems Analyst Information Architecture and Projects Section Division of Information Management

Vacancy Notice No. 2007/904
Deadline: December 14, 2007
Published Salary: \$101,470

Nuclear Safeguards Inspector Division of Operations Vacancy Notice No. 2007/905 Deadline: December 14, 2007 Published Salary: \$84,339

Nuclear Safeguards Inspector Division of Operations Vacancy Notice No. 2007/906 Deadline: December 14, 2007 Published Salary: \$101,470

ISPO Information System (IIS) Database Progress Report on Financial Module

Michelle Silva
and
Bonnie McGahern

During the last three months, the International Safeguards Project Office (ISPO) financial team continued to work closely with the Information Systems Analysis and Development (ISAD) group at Los Alamos National Laboratory to (1) validate the integrity of the CY 2007 financial expense data transferred and entered and (2) test the usability and feasibility of the final version of the IIS Financial Module.

The financial representatives at LANL and ISPO tested the functionality of the IIS by inputting their July, August and September expense data directly into the Financial Module. In addition, the ORNL financial representative was asked to review the functionality of the Financial Module and provide feedback. As a result of this testing and review, valuable feedback and suggested improvements were received and implemented to enhance the functionality and utility of the Financial Module. During this testing, ISPO also identified a

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managed for the U.S. Department of Energy by Brookhaven Science Associates,
a company founded by Stony Brook University and Battelle

required scope change for incorporation into the BNL business process of the IIS. Due to the enhancements and unplanned scope change, ISPO experienced a delay in meeting its October 1st deadline for rolling out the Financial Module to all ISPO Contractors.

As of November 1st, ISPO has been working with ISAD to roll out a "Test Plan" to several additional Contractors who will utilize the IIS Financial Module to (1) input their October monthly expenses and (2) provide critical feedback on their experience. If this additional testing goes well, the next phase will be for the IIS Financial Module to "go live" as of December 1st at which time all remaining Contractors will be notified to begin entering their financial data on a regular basis beginning with their November 2007 expense data.

Staff Changes
Susan Pepper

John Oakberg retired from the IAEA in October. See article on Page 2.

Peter Zachry began his cost free expert assignment in the Information Architecture and Projects Section on October 1, 2007. He will assist with the establishment of rules and procedures for daily monitoring and prevention of IT-related intrusion attempts. Mr. Zachry has a degree in Computer Information Systems from IONA College in New Rochelle, New York. He was most recently the IT Security Office for PETRO.

Zia Thompson began his Junior Professional Officer assignment in the Section for Attended and Unattended NDA Division of Technical Services. Mr. Tompkins will assist with the performance analysis and testing of NDA measurement systems and methods which are used currently for inspection purposes. Mr. Tompkins has Master of Science degrees in Physics and Nuclear Engineering from the University of Tennessee and in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

John Oakberg (class of '69)

John Oakberg

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to share my Auburn background and subsequent career as a Senior Information Analyst working at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria.

I graduated from Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge, Tennessee in 1965. Auburn was one of my first choices because I was thinking about going into the Navy, and Auburn had a Navy ROTC program. After a visit to the campus, the decision was clear to choose Auburn, even though I did not pursue the Navy option.

Coming from the highly scientifically oriented education system in Oak Ridge, my interests naturally fell into the sciences. I do not recall exactly, but I either started in physics or engineering but at the end of my freshman year changed to a major in mathematics. For minor studies, I finished with the interesting combination of Spanish and geography with several courses in meteorology. At the time, I was not sure as to what I would do with the degree, and initially thought of teaching, weather forecasting or going to graduate school. The prospect of an information technology career was not even a consideration at that time.

Following graduation in 1969, my entry job as a computer programmer began in July of that year for Union Carbide Corporation's Nuclear Division, the contractor operating the three nuclear facilities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Certainly, my mathematics degree was necessary to be considered for employment, but I was told that the key critical factor for being hired was a single elective course in FORTRAN programming that I took during my senior year at Auburn. Two years later, I started graduate school in computer science at the University of Tennessee while continuing to work full time in Oak Ridge. Shortly after graduating, I was asked to work on a special project in Vienna, Austria, developing software for the IAEA. This was a big change for my wife Linda (class of '69) and myself in 1977, and the possibility came about because of my work in the US nuclear industry. We went to Vienna for about 18 months and then returned to Oak Ridge.

While in Austria during 1977-1978, we realized how much we liked it there and, in addition I really enjoyed working in an international

environment. Two years later, I started to actively look for a chance to return and that opportunity came in 1982. We moved back to Vienna for an expected stay of four years that extended to a quarter of a century.

After returning to Vienna in October 1982, instead of working in software development as before, my tasks were in the operation and further development of systems and their use in meeting the nuclear materials information analysis and accountancy requirements of the IAEA. My work is in the area of nuclear safeguards, which has expanded significantly over the years to reflect the changing world, especially since the early 1990s and the first Gulf war. We now have information analysis responsibilities that extend well beyond what is related to nuclear materials, and the corresponding challenges have increased greatly. The most interesting technical aspect of my job is correlating our many information sources and systems in order to perform analysis tasks. It is rewarding and exciting work.

Although I have what could be called a 'headquarters job', I travel frequently to provide training on nuclear material accounting and control, for preparing declarations on nuclear activities and in meeting the relevant international reporting obligations. Another reason for traveling is for specific problem-solving missions that require my areas of expertise and, occasionally, I participate in inspections of nuclear facilities. Those travels have taken me to many countries in all continents on a regular basis. While at Auburn in the 1960s, I never would have expected to not only live in Europe for most of my career, but also to become very comfortable and confident in going to all corners of the world, to all types of environments and work situations.

In many ways, a typical day at IAEA headquarters in Vienna is not unlike any other job in a large office building, but there are major differences. One is that the surroundings of the work setting are vastly diverse and very lively, with all of the world's cultures, nationalities, languages and customs present at all times. Also, we do not work for monetary profit, but instead our objectives are to fulfill the missions of the IAEA.

Concerning careers in the international community, the possibilities vary because there are many different organizations and specialized agencies in the UN family, of which the IAEA is

one. Each organization or agency has needs, some specific, like the nuclear orientation of the IAEA or medical direction of the World Health Organization. Yet, there is a common requirement for staff in general areas such as legal advisors, financial officers and human resource managers. A job in a UN organization is not the same as working in the US job market. For example, at the IAEA, not all professional staff have contracts permitting a long term career. The typical length of stay is about 5 years, although a core group of the staff do remain longer. A good beginning point to learn more about the entire UN system is at www.un.org and information about the IAEA, including work opportunities, is at www.iaea.org.

If asked to name one single highlight in my 25 years with the IAEA, it would be the awarding to us of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, shared between the Director General of the IAEA and the staff. As far away in my thoughts that I would spend so many years with a UN agency and live in Europe, was that I would ever be related to a Nobel Peace Prize, even as just one staff member among all of those at the IAEA. It is an indescribable, overwhelming and awe-inspiring feeling, the achievement of which we are very proud. A more personal highlight was my promotion to the Senior staff level in 1997.

In closing, it is interesting to recall that one elective course as a senior at Auburn was the primary factor in getting a beginning computer job with the US nuclear industry. That led to a graduate degree in computer science and to a position with the IAEA for a 25 year career.

Thank you again for the invitation to share my Auburn and career experiences with you. I am available to visit Auburn after retirement in October 2007 and would be pleased to talk with anyone who would like to hear about living overseas for such a long time and working for an agency in the UN system.

John Oakberg (class of '69)
August 31, 2007

Upcoming Meetings

JAEA-IAEA Workshop on Advanced Safeguards Technology for the Future Nuclear Fuel Cycle, November 13, 16, 2007, Techno Community Square Ricotti, Tokai-mura, Ibaraki, Japan.

Information available via the workshop website:
www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/-Meetings/-Meetings.asp.

USSP Annual Task Review, March 2008, Vienna, Austria, to be attended by SSTS and ISPO representatives.

MSSP Coordinators Meeting, April 8-11, 2008, Vienna, Austria. USSP representatives will include SSTS and ISPO members. The meeting provides a forum for representatives of all member state support programs to discuss topics of mutual interest and review the IAEA's Safeguards programs.

USSP Annual Review Meeting, May 19-22, 2008, Vienna, Austria, to be attended by SSTS, ISPO and USSP contractor representatives.

INMM/ESARDA Workshop, October 6-9, 2008, Tokyo, Japan. The meeting agenda is being developed. Details will be available soon at www.inmm.org.